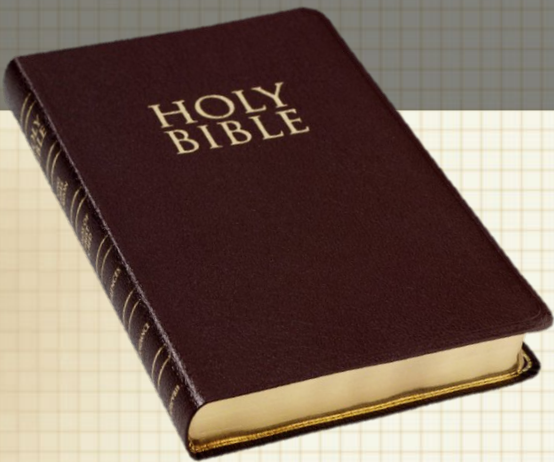


Biblical foundations for research

Taken and modified from John Wesley Taylor
University of Montemorelos



Is the Bible against scientific research?

the Bible favors research



Whatever line of investigation we pursue, with a sincere purpose to arrive at truth, we are brought in touch with the unseen, mighty Intelligence that is working in and through all. The mind of man is brought into communion with the mind of God, the finite with the Infinite. The effect of such communion on body and mind and soul is beyond estimate.

{Ed 14.2}



Biblical examples

1 Corinthians 2: 10

Job 29: 16

Psalms 77:6

Prov. 25: 2

1 Peter 1: 10

Acts 17: 11

1 Tes 5: 21

Esther 6: 1-3

Numbers 13: 17 – 20

Daniel 1: 12 - 13

Psalms 34: 8

Ecclesiastes 7: 25

Matthew 7: 7

John 5: 39

Job 11: 7

Psalms 64: 6

Job 8: 8

Prov. 2: 4-5

Ecclesiastes 1: 13



Biblical examples

- **The Holy Spirit**

1 Corinthians 2: 10

¹⁰ these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. (1 Corinthians 2: 10).



Biblical examples...

- **Job**

Job 29:16

*I was a father to the needy;
I took up the case of the stranger* (Job 29:16).



Biblical examples...

- **David**

Psalm 77:6

*I remembered my songs in the night.
My heart meditated and my spirit asked:*

(Psalm 77:6).



Biblical examples...

- **Solomon**

Prov. 25: 2

*It is the glory of God to conceal a matter;
to search out a matter is the glory of kings.*

(Prov. 25: 2).



Biblical examples...

- **Prophets** **1 Peter 1: 10**

¹⁰ Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care,

(1 Peter 1: 10)



Biblical examples...

- **Christians of Berea**

Acts 17: 11

¹¹ Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true. (Acts 17: 11)



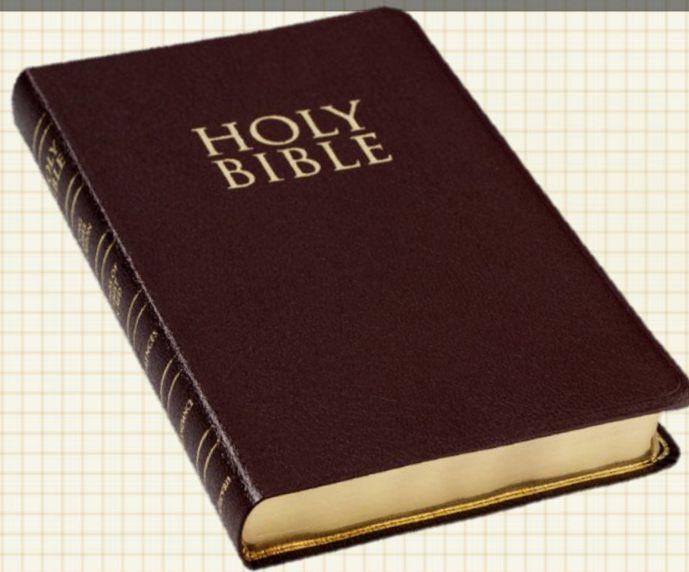
Biblical examples...

- **We are recommended** **I Tes 5: 21**

²¹ but test them all; hold on to what is good,

(I Tes 5: 21)





Types of Research

University of Montemorelos



Types of researchs...

Historical research

Esther 6: 1-3

*That night the king could not sleep; so he ordered **the book of the chronicles**, the record of his reign, to be brought in and read to him. ² It was found recorded there that Mordecai had exposed Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king's officers who guarded the doorway, who had conspired to assassinate King Xerxes. ³ "What honor and recognition has Mordecai received for this?" the king asked. (Esther 6: 1-3).*



Descriptive research Numbers 13: 17 - 20

*¹⁷ When Moses sent them to explore Canaan, he said, “Go up through the Negev and on into the hill country. ¹⁸ **See what the land** is like and whether the **people** who live there are strong or weak, few or many. ¹⁹ What **kind of land** do they live in? Is it good or bad? What kind of **towns** do they live in? Are they unwalled or fortified?*

Descriptive research...

*²⁰ How is the soil? Is it fertile or poor? Are there **trees** in it or not? Do your best to bring back **some of the fruit of the land.**" (It was the season for the first ripe grapes.)* (Numbers 13: 17 - 20).



Experimental research Daniel 1: 12 - 13

¹² *"Please test your servants for ten days: Give us nothing but vegetables to eat and water to drink. ¹³ Then compare our appearance with that of the young men who eat the royal food, and treat your servants in accordance with what you see."*

(Daniel 1: 12 - 13).



Types of researchs...

Qualitative research

Psalm 34: 8

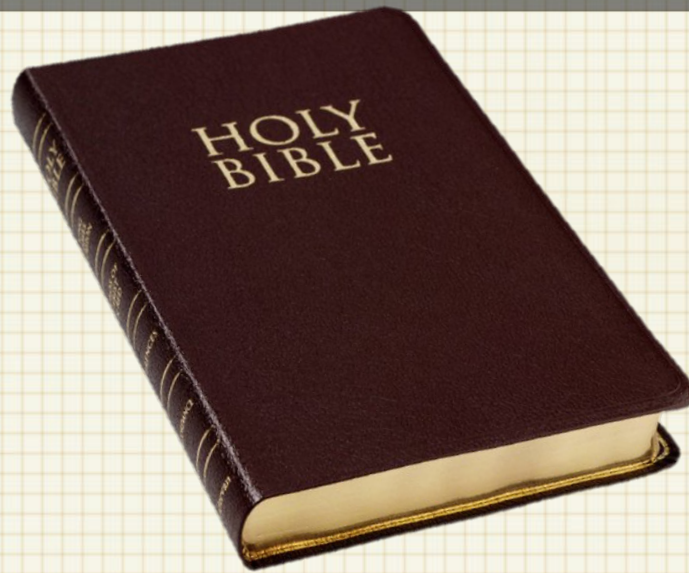
*“**Taste** and **see** that the Lord is good;
blessed is the one **who takes refuge** in him”.*

(Psalm 34: 8).

**Investigator
Instrument**

**Establish
reliability**





Biblical principles

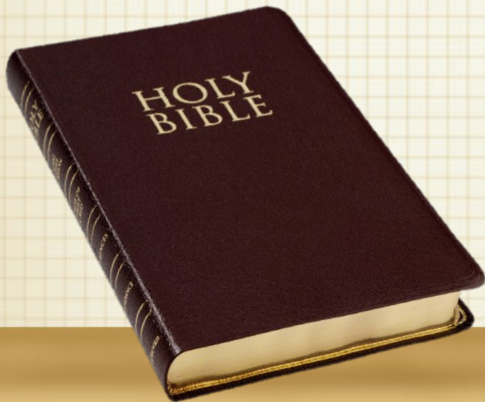


A research spirit is necessary

Ecclesiastes 7: 25

*“So I turned my mind to understand,
to investigate and to search out wisdom and the
scheme of things and to understand the stupidity
of wickedness and the madness of folly.”.*

(Ecclesiastes 7: 25).

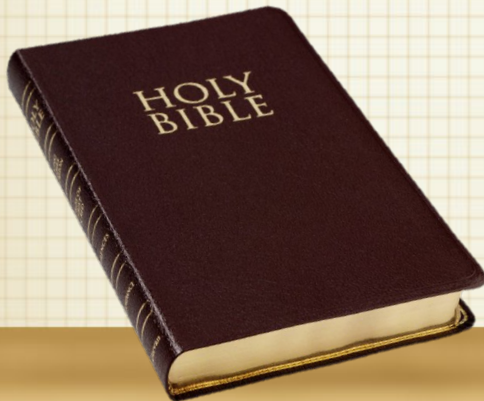


The discovery is linked to research

Matthew 7: 7

⁷*“**Ask** and it **will be given** to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.”*

(Matthew 7: 7).

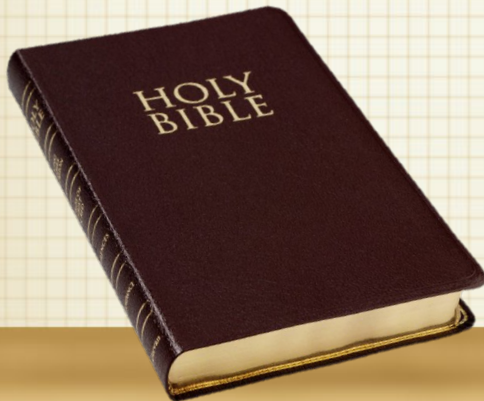


Not every topic is of equal value

John 5: 39

³⁹“You study^[c] the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them **you have eternal life**. These are the very **Scriptures that testify about me,**”

(John 5: 39).

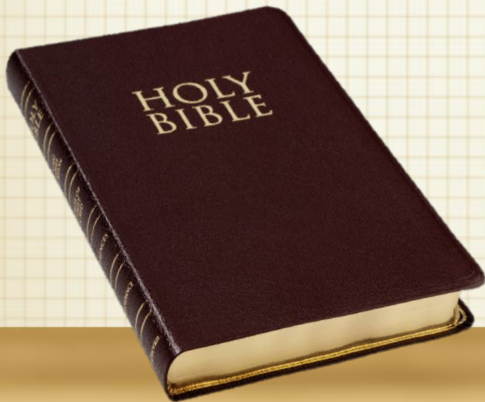


Research has its limitations

Job 11: 7

*“Can you fathom the mysteries of God?
Can you probe the limits of the Almighty?”*

(Job 11: 7)

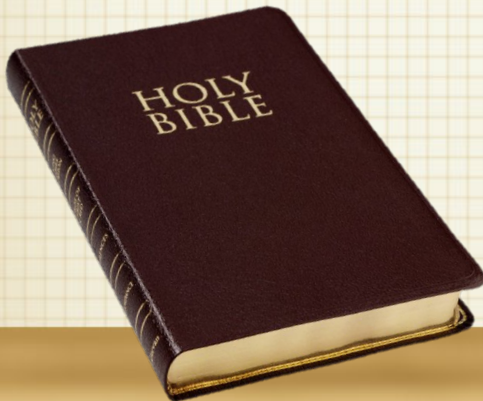


Not all Investigation leads to Truth

Psalm 64: 6

“They plot injustice and say, “We have devised a perfect plan!” Surely the human mind and heart are cunning”

(Psalm 64: 6)

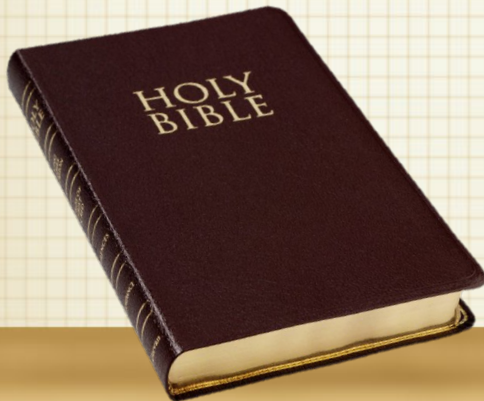


Research must be built on prior knowledge

Job 8: 8

*“Ask the former generation
and find out what their ancestors learned”*

(Job 8: 8)

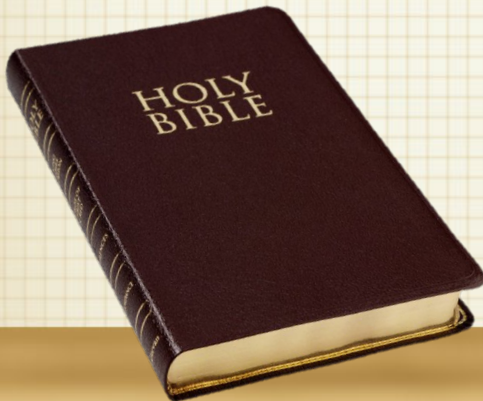


Research requires effort

Prov. 2: 4-5

*“and if you look for it as for silver
and search for it as for hidden treasure,
⁵ then you will understand the fear of the Lord
and find the knowledge of God.”*

(Prov. 2: 4-5)

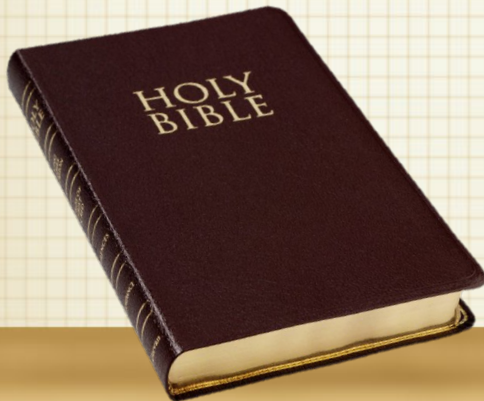


The investigation is a divine mandate

Ecclesiastes 1: 13

*“I applied my mind to study and to explore by wisdom all that is done under the heavens. **What a heavy burden God has laid on mankind!**”*

(Ecclesiastes 1: 13)



Research

A search for the Truth



What is the truth?

John 18:38



Offer of criteria

1.- Tradition

2.- Popularity

3.- Emotion

4.- Instinct

5.- Pragmatism

6.- Empiricism

7.- Coherence

8.- Logic

9.- Relevance

10.- Authority



What is the truth?

1.- Tradition

It has been like this for a very long time



What is the truth?

2.- Popularity

- *Well, everyone agrees*
- *Everyone says well*
- *The majority is always right?*



What is the truth?

3.- Emotion

It beats me that it's true!

Something must be true, because I like it?



What is the truth?

4.- Instinct

Do not you see? It's obvious, it's clear

What is the problem?

The problem is that our heart is deceiving

The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure.

Who can understand it? (Jer. 17: 9)



What is the truth?

5.- Pragmatism

If it works, then it's true

Something is true just because it works?

What of the deceptions in the promotion?



What is the truth?

6.- Empiricism

The research supports it and is scientifically sound

¹² For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.. (1Cor. 13:12)



*⁹ For we know in part and we
prophecy in part, (1 Cor. 13:9)*



What is the truth?

7.- Coherence

“Everything is very consistent, everything seems to fit in a perfect way”

What happens if we start from a wrong premise?

What is true is consistent, but not everything consistent is true.



What is the truth?

8.- Logic

“However, it seems reasonable ...”

Major premise = *every man is mortal*

Minor premise = *I am a man*

Conclusion = *I am mortal*

Can logic become a systematic way of making mistakes confidently?



What is the truth?

8.- Logic

some affirmations seem to defy logic

¹⁶ “So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

Matthew 20:16

For when I am weak, then I am strong. 2 Cor. 12:10

having nothing, and yet possessing everything. 2Cor. 6:10



What is the truth?

9.- Relevance

everything is so significant

The relevance of today can very easily become irrelevant tomorrow.



What is the truth?

10.- Authority

He must know

Who will be the authority?



What is the truth?

A dilemma

Tom's dilemma

“We do not know anything”
(Juan 14: 5, 6)



What is the truth?

Seeing everything in perspective

Before discarding these 10 criteria, we must emphasize that each one has a certain value and can contribute to a better understanding of the truth.

however, none can guarantee by itself that something is true.



In the search for the truth

Option 1



frustrating search

endless groping in the dark

You never know

Option 2



faith is required

it has to be based on
something or someone



always learning but never coming to the knowledge of the truth

*⁷ always learning but never able to come
to a knowledge of the truth. (2 Timothy 3:7)*

*Now faith is confidence in what we hope
for and assurance about what we do not see.
(Hebrew 11:1)*



Where to place the faith?

A Christian response

⁶ Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. (John 14:6)

The truth is a Person



Where to place the faith?

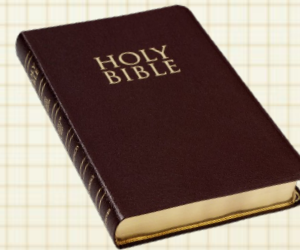
A Christian response

¹⁷ Sanctify them by^[d] the truth; your word is truth. (John 17:17)

**The Word, written or living,
is the Truth**



Implications For the Christian



implications for the Christian

A Christian response

1) Truth begins with God, not with man

¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. (John 1:17)



implications for the Christian

A Christian response

**2) the truth is eternal
because it resides in God**

(Psalm 100:5; 117: 2)

***man can not destroy the truth, he can
only accept it or reject it***



implications for the Christian

A Christian response

**3) the truth does not change
since God is its origin
and God does not change**

(Malachi 3: 6; James 1: 17; Psalm 100:5; Isaiah 43: 9)

***the truth is universal, for all time, place
and person***



implications for the Christian

A Christian response

4) The whole truth can be unity
since it comes
from the same source

*the truth will always be in harmony with
itself*



implications for the Christian

A Christian response

**5) the truth is infinite
because God is infinite**

*when we perceive the horizons of our
understanding, we recognize the borders
of our ignorance*



*¹² For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. **Now I know in part**; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.*

(1Corinthians 13:12)



implications for the Christian

A Christian response

**6) the Christian must continually
grow in his knowledge and
understanding of the truth**

*it is not enough to know the truth but to
walk in the truth*



⁴ It has given me great joy to find some of your children walking in the truth, just as the Father commanded us.

(2 John 4)

It gave me great joy when some believers came and testified about your faithfulness to the truth, telling how you continue to walk in it. ⁴ I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.

(3 John 3, 4)



implications for the Christian

A Christian response

**7) since God is the source of all truth,
all truth is divine truth**

*The Christian recognizes that he does not
have a monopoly on the truth. Unbelievers
also discover truths*



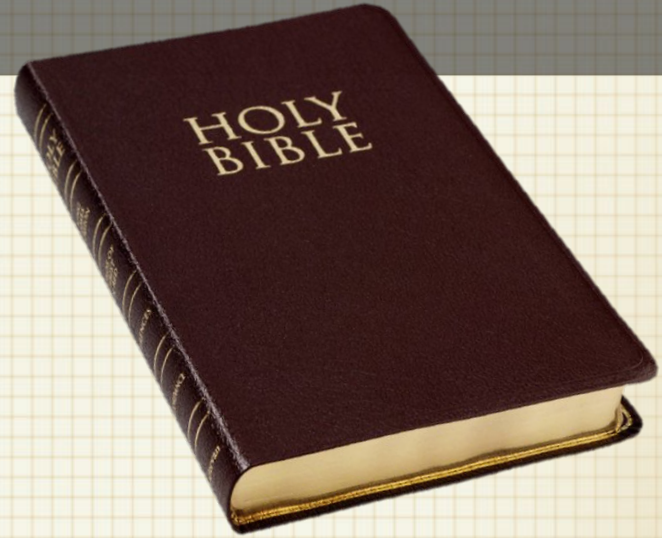
⁴⁵ *that you may be children of your Father in heaven.
He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good,
and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.*

(Matthew 5: 45)

⁴ *who wants all people to be saved and to come to
a knowledge of the truth.*

(2 Timothy 2:4)

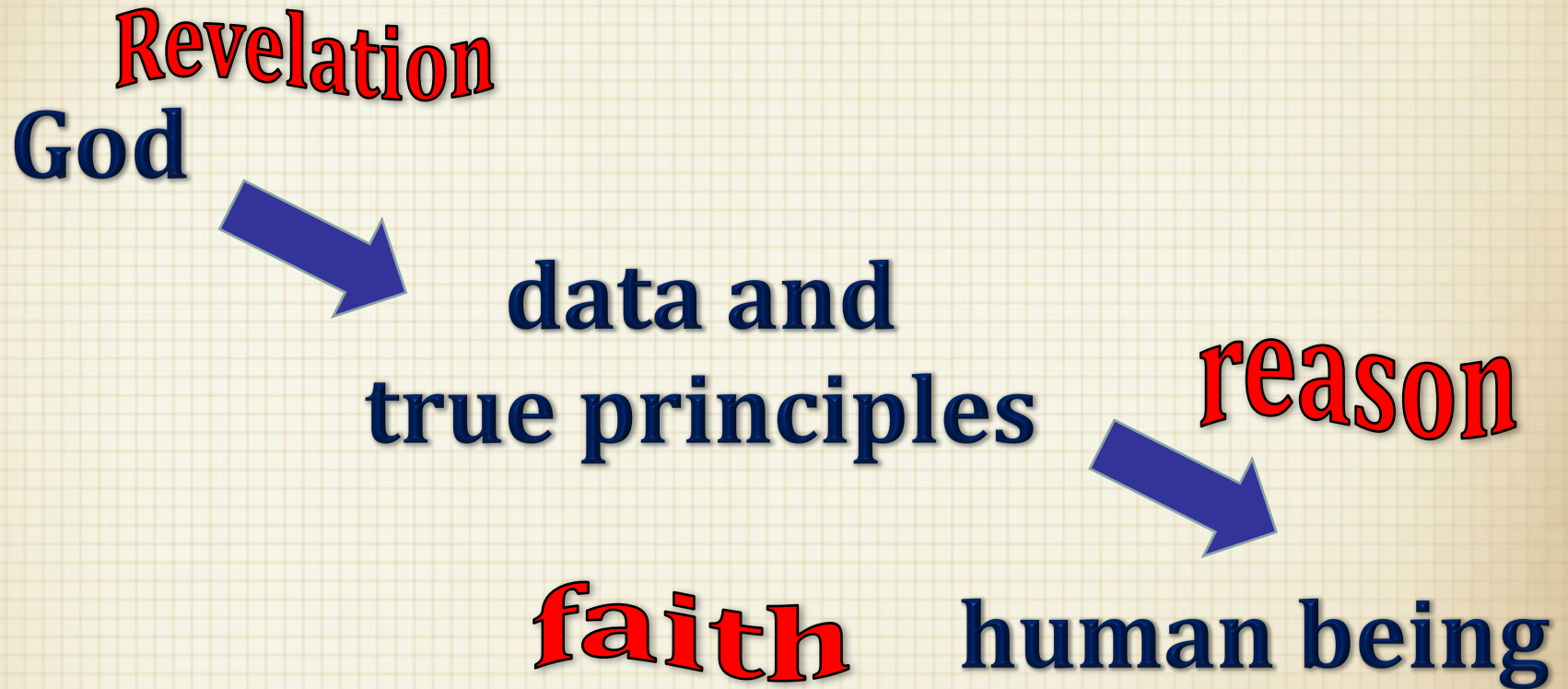




In the final analysis, the Christian criterion of truth is the Word of the living God.



Receiving the truth



**An issue that deserves
our reflection**



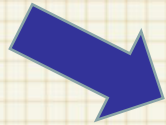
Romans 1: 25

²⁵ They **exchanged the truth** about God
for a lie, and worshiped and served
created things rather than the Creator—
who is forever praised. Amen.



The Truth turned into a lie

God



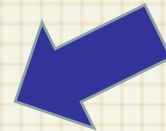
Revelation

data and
true principles



human being
a secular worldview
(2Cor. 4:4)

Manipulation of Satan



(Acts 16:16 - 18)

= False conclusions





The role of the Holy Spirit

(Juan 16: 13) guide the truth



**It is not enough to be guided to
the Truth, we must love the Truth**

*¹⁰ and all the ways that wickedness deceives
those who are perishing. They perish because
they refused to love the truth and so be saved.*

(2 Tes. 2: 10)



**What does it mean to love the
Truth?**

Live the Truth



What will be the result?

*³² Then you will know the truth,
and the truth will set you free.”*

(John 8: 32)

